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APPLICATION

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FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

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SPECIFICATION

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TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, RYAN KLINGER AND MICHAEL
25 MCFARLAND, citizens of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have
invented a new and useful BASKETBALL SHOOTING ACCURACY AID
of which the following is a specification:

BASKETBALL SHOOTING ACCURACY AID

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to basketball accuracy improvement devices and more particularly pertains to a new basketball accuracy improvement device for improving the basketball shooting accuracy of a basketball player.

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Description of the Prior Art

The use of basketball accuracy improvement devices is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,364,092 and 5,823,896 both describe devices 20 that decrease the diameter of a basketball rim so that making a basketball shot is more difficult. Other types of improvement devices include additional hoops through which the basketball must travel before it travels through the basketball rim. Such a device is found in U.S. Patent No. 5,558,323.

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While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a device that not only decreases the diameter of the rim but also discourages bank shots by decreasing reliance 30 on the backboard of the basketball hoop. The combination of these two features will increase the accuracy of shooting a basketball.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by generally comprising a loop member including a top edge, a bottom edge and a 5 peripheral wall extending between the top and bottom edges. The peripheral wall has an inner surface and an outer surface. The loop member has circular shape. An inner diameter of the loop member is at least one inch less than an inner diameter of a basketball rim. A bracket is attached to the loop member and is positioned adjacent to the bottom edge 10 for selectively securing the loop member to the rim such that the loop member extends upwardly above a plane of the rim.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that 15 follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

20 The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

30 Figure 1 is a schematic front perspective view of a basketball shooting accuracy aid according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic top view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic front view of the present invention.

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Figure 4 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 4-4 of Figure 2 of the present invention.

10 Figure 5 is a schematic front perspective view of a second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 6-6 of Figure 5 of the present invention.

15 **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 6 thereof, a new basketball accuracy improvement device embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and 20 generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 6, the basketball shooting accuracy aid 10 generally comprises a loop member 12 including a top edge 14, a bottom edge 16 and a peripheral wall 18 extending between the 25 top 14 and bottom 16 edges. The peripheral wall 18 has an inner surface 20 and an outer surface 22. The loop member 12 has circular shape. An inner diameter of the loop member 12 is at least one inch less than an inner diameter of a regulation basketball rim 8 which is equal to 18 inches. Ideally, the inner diameter of the loop member 12 is substantially equal to 30 16.5 inches. The loop member 12 has a width from the inner surface 20 to the outer surface 22 of about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. The upper edge 14 of the loop member 12 is rounded.

A bracket 24 is attached to the loop member 12 and is positioned adjacent to the bottom edge 16 for selectively securing the loop member 12 to the rim 8 such that the loop member 12 extends upwardly above a plane of the rim 8. The peripheral wall 18 extends at least three inches upwardly 5 from the bracket 24. The bracket 24 includes an outwardly extending peripheral flange 26 that is attached to the peripheral wall 18. The peripheral flange 26 has an outer edge 28. A downwardly extending first wall 30 is attached to and extends along a length of the outer edge 28. The juncture of the flange 26 and the first wall 30 is rounded and it is also 10 preferred that a bottom edge 32 of the first wall 30 is rounded. A downwardly extending second wall 34 is attached to and extends along a length of the bottom edge 16. A rim receiving space 36 is defined between the first wall 30 and the second wall 34. The second wall 34 has a plurality of apertures 38 extending therethrough. Each of a plurality of 15 fasteners 40 is removably extendable into one of the apertures 38 such that the fasteners 40 extend into the rim receiving space 36 and the rim 8 is positioned between the flange 26 and the fasteners 40. The fasteners 40 each have a head 42 that is countersunk into the second wall 34 such that the heads 42 are flush with an inner side of the second wall 34. The 20 plurality of apertures 38 and fasteners 40 is preferably at least four of each.

A second version of the bracket 44 is depicted in Figures 5 and 6 and includes a substantially similar structure as that described above, 25 however the bracket 44 of the second embodiment is a plurality of discrete brackets 44 spaced around the peripheral wall 18.

In use, the aid 10 is positioned on a conventional basketball rim 8 to decrease the inner circumference of the rim 8. The user of the aid 10 then 30 attempts to shoot baskets in a conventional manner. The smaller diameter encourages more precise shooting in order to make a basket. The

peripheral wall 18, being three inches above the bracket 24, adds difficulty when attempting a bank-shot off of a backboard 9. Because of the peripheral wall 18, a shooter is required to make more shots without the use of the backboard 9, again to encourage more accurate and precise 5 shooting. The rounded edges 14, 28, 32 of the aid 10 insure rebounds off of the aid that follow conventional trajectories off of rim 8 and also prevents damage to the basketball.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that 10 the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be 15 encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to 20 limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.